AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A brake slack adjuster comprising:

a housing having an opening with a gear disposed within said opening, said housing including a bore adjacent to said opening;

a worm defining an axis, and disposed within said bore engaging said gear, said worm having an end portion with helical teeth;

an actuator including an outer surface adjacent to said bore and an inner surface having complementary helical teeth engaging said helical teeth of said worm, said actuator having an aperture, and said actuator movable along said axis relative to said worm;

an actuator rod having an end disposed within said aperture, and captured in said actuator by a retainer; and

a pawl assembly coacting with said actuator for retaining said actuator in a rotational position relative to said axis.

2. (Original) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 1, wherein said actuator is plastic.

3. (Original) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 1, wherein said inner and outer surfaces are defined by an arcuate wall.

4. (Previously Presented) A brake slack adjuster comprising:

a housing having an opening with a gear disposed within said opening, said housing including a bore adjacent to said opening;

a worm defining an axis, and disposed within said bore engaging said gear, said worm having an end portion with helical teeth;

an actuator including an outer surface adjacent to said bore and an inner surface having complementary helical teeth engaging said helical teeth of said worm, said actuator having an aperture, and said actuator movable along said axis relative to said worm, wherein said inner and outer surfaces are defined by an arcuate wall;

an actuator rod having an end disposed within said aperture, and captured in said actuator by a retainer;

a pawl assembly coacting with said actuator for retaining said actuator in a rotational position relative to said axis; and

a biasing member arranged between said actuator and said housing bore, urging said actuator into engagement with said worm end portion.

5. (Previously Presented) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 4, wherein said actuator is movable along said axis between non-adjustment and adjustment positions in response to said actuator rod moving between brake apply and brake release positions.

6. (Original) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 5, wherein said biasing member urges said actuator from said adjustment position to said non-adjustment position.

7. (Previously Presented) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 5, wherein said worm helical teeth and said actuator complementary helical teeth temporarily disengage in said adjustment position in response to movement of said actuator rod in a first direction.

8. (Original) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 7, wherein said worm rotates said gear to a desired slack adjuster position in response to movement of said actuator rod in a second direction opposite said first direction.

9. (Original) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 7, wherein said adjustment position corresponds to said brake apply position and said non-adjustment position corresponds to said brake release position.

10. (Previously Presented) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 5, wherein said actuator rod end includes a slot having opposing terminal ends defining said non-adjustment and adjustment positions, and said retainer defined by a pin disposed within said slot and secured to said actuator.

11. (Previously Presented) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 5, wherein said actuator includes a cavity having a length with one end of said length defining said non-adjustment position and the other end of said length defining said adjustment position.

12. (Original) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 11, wherein said actuator rod end includes an annular groove, and said retainer defined by a clip received in said annular groove.

13. (Original) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 11, wherein said actuator includes a flange having said aperture and defining said one end.

14. (Previously Presented) A brake slack adjuster comprising:

a housing having an opening with a gear disposed within said opening, said housing including a bore adjacent to said opening;

a worm defining an axis, and disposed within said bore engaging said gear, said worm having an end portion with helical teeth;

an actuator including an outer surface adjacent to said bore and an inner surface having complementary helical teeth engaging said helical teeth of said worm, said actuator movable along said axis relative to said worm;

a biasing member between said actuator and said housing bore urging said actuator into engagement with said worm end portion; and

a pawl assembly coacting with said actuator for preventing rotation movement of said actuator about said axis relative to said housing.

15. (Previously Presented) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 14, wherein said pawl assembly is received within a second bore in said housing formed transverse to said bore, said pawl assembly having an end captured within an elongated slot in said actuator which is generally parallel with said axis.

16. (Previously Presented) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 15, wherein said pawl assembly includes a neck adjacent to said end, and said elongated slot defines a lip with said lip received by said neck.

17. (Previously Presented) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 16, wherein said elongated slot includes an enlarged opening for receiving said end, and said elongated slot excluding said enlarged opening includes a width less than an end diameter.

18. (Currently amended) A brake slack adjuster comprising:

a housing having an opening with a gear disposed within said opening, said housing including a bore adjacent to said opening;

a worm defining an axis disposed within said bore, said worm engaging said gear;

an actuator movable between non-adjustment and adjustment positions, said actuator having an aperture;

an actuator rod having an end disposed within said aperture, said end including a slot that is elongated ~~having a length extending~~ in a direction generally parallel with said axis and defining said non-adjustment and adjustment positions, and a pin slidably disposed within said slot and movable within said slot in said direction between said non-adjustment and adjustment positions, said pin secured to said actuator.

19. (Previously Presented) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 2, wherein a plastic biasing member is provided by said actuator.

20. (Previously Presented) The brake slack adjuster according to claim 18, wherein said pin is seated in one end of said slot in said non-adjustment position and in an opposing end of said slot in said adjustment position.